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LIBRARY LOOKOUT

LIBRARY LOCKOUT

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Library Commission

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ATTEND ONE OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY INSTITUTES ON WAR AND POST WAR ISSUES

You are invited to attend a library institute on War and Post war Issues. A series of five are being planned for West Virginia and you are welcome to choose the one most convenient for you. They are open to everyone. Librarians, trustees and members of the Better Library Movement in West Virginia are urged to bring other friends of the library with them.

The persons responsible for program plans at each meeting place are the hostess librarian and her committee; the President of the West Virginia Library Association, Mrs. Mary W. Conaway, and the other association officers; and Miss Clara B. Johnson, State Coordinator for West Virginia Institutes, appointed by Mr. Keyes D. Metcalf, President, American Library Association. A one day meeting has been arranged with speakers for both morning and afternoon. More specific announcements will be sent by the district committees soon. The tentative schedule follows:

Place	Date	Hostess Librarian
Clarksburg	April 27	Miss Ethel Green
Charleston	April 29	Miss Isobel P. Lynch
Huntington	May 1	Mrs. Madalyn M. Bradford
Shepherdstown	May 11	Mrs. C. F. Lyne
Parkersburg	May 19	Miss Anna E. Taylor

NATIONAL INSTITUTE

The West Virginia meetings are a part of a national plan sponsored by the American Library Association, which included a National Institute conducted by the well known discussion leader, Mr. Raymond Jones, and subject specialists with attendance limited by A.L.A. invitation. This national meeting was followed by twenty-one regional institutes organized by regional committees, and later by many local institutes under the direction of the state coordinators.

The National Institute on War and Post war Issues was held in Chicago, January 30-31st. Our state was represented at the meeting by Mr. W. P. Kellam, librarian, West Virginia University.

The following topics were selected for discussion at the Chicago Institute: Ideas are weapons; What the citizens must know and do to help win the war; Preparing for the postwar period in America; Preparing for a postwar world. Throughout the sessions of the National Institute the participants were expected to consider the question, "What can librarians do to promote reading and thinking about these issues?"

Quite a complete report of the National Institute is given in the March, 1943, number of the A.L.A. Bulletin.

REGIONAL INSTITUTE

The regional institute for western Pennsylvania and West Virginia was held in Pittsburgh, March 18 and 19. Attending from West Virginia were Misses Isabel Lynch, Annis Fredrickson, Alma Baumister, Leonore White and Lucille Moore, all of the Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston; Misses Eleanor Hamilton, Virginia Ebeling, Nancy Matthews and Elizabeth Meek of the Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling; Miss Ethel Green, librarian of the Public Library,

Clarksburg; Mrs. H. M. Taylor and Mrs. D. D. Piercy, trustees of the St. Marys Public Library; Miss Bernice Grant, librarian of the Alderson Broaddus College Library, Philippi; Miss Emma Parsons, librarian at Fairmont State Teachers College; Miss Florence K. Reese, Mr. W. P. Kollan and Mr. C. W. Cantrell of the West Virginia University Library and Mrs. Martha V. Moore and Miss Clara B. Johnson of the West Virginia Library Commission, Morgantown.

Dr. Ralph Munn, Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh was our host and Mr. James E. Bryan, of that library was chairman of the meeting.

A very fine program was presented under three themes: "What understandings and values are necessary to preserve and extend democracy?" "Post war planning," and "Education and the post war world."

Outstanding speakers were Dr. Ernest S. Griffith, Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.; Professor Norman H. Dawes, History Department, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh; and Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison, President, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa.

BOOKS IN WARTIME

John Hersey's book, Into the Valley, has recently been chosen an "Imperative" by the Council of Books in Wartime. It tells what war is like in the jungle and is the vivid story of a skirmish of the Marines on Guadalcanal.

The Council has also recently listed ten other recommended books dealing with the Southwest Pacific. (Note page 661 in April, 1943, issue of the Wilson Library Bulletin.) A number of other lists have been compiled including a very good one on China. All have been carefully prepared and are useful to the librarian as buying guides and to her borrowers as suggested readings.

The A.L.A. and individual librarians are cooperating with the Council on Books in Wartime which has set up the following aims:

"To achieve the widest possible use of books contributing to the war effort of the United Peoples: by the use of books in the building and maintenance of the will to win; by the use of books to expose the true nature of the enemy; by the use of technical information in books on the training, the fighting, the production, and the home fronts; by the use of books to sustain morale through relaxation and inspiration; by the use of books to clarify our war aims and the problems of the peace."

The address of the Council is 347 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and Miss Jennie M. Flexner is chairman of its Library Committee.

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Another important list is the one enclosed, "Mobilizing our Brain Power," Issued by the American Library Association. It emphasizes the need to think and read and talk about how each one of us can help to win the war, how democracy can be made to work best at home after war is won and how our country, with others, can achieve permanent peace. A quantity of these lists was sent to the Library Commission by the American Library Association for distribution. The Library Commission also has the books to loan on request.

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Mr. W. P. Kellam, librarian of West Virginia University, offers to any librarian requesting it a copy of Hoover and Gibson's, The Problems of Lasting Peace until the supply is exhausted.

BOOKS ON THE FOOD FRONT

Regarding the recent message from the Food Administrator, the Editorial Forum of the Library Journal had this to say:

"Claude R. Wickard's "special call to active service on the food front" in the February A.L.A. Bulletin is another bit of evidence of the high esteem in which libraries are held by the country's administrators. The Secretary of Agriculture cites War Information Centers as "helping millions of Americans to understand more fully what we are fighting for, and to learn the most effective way of working together toward victory." With regard to food, he reminds us that a "library's responsibility...will not be fulfilled by merely placing publications on the shelves. By making such publications widely available and encouraging their use by every citizen, librarians, in both city and farm areas, can do much toward promoting good management of food--one of our vital war materials."

Many libraries, public, college, and special, are already "in step" in this war work. Exhibits--the library's sure way of focussing attention--have frequently related to food, especially since rationing was instituted. Forums are being held to acquaint participants with the devious food problems which confront the nation.

However, attention from those in high places is salutary at all times. Librarians should be spurred to greater effort to justify Mr. Wickard's faith in them."

LEGISLATION

In passing the budget bill for the year 1943-45 the West Virginia legislature provided the same amount for the Library Commission as had been appropriated for the present biennium, \$20,000. This amount will permit the development of traveling library service to communities and book loans to individuals and will establish the Library Commission as a clearing house for information on public library problems and the library extension program.

The request for funds for state aid in county library development was rejected by the Board of Public Works and was not brought up in the legislature.

A bill sponsored by library leaders in the state to revise the present library law was introduced in the Senate but died in committee.

The assistance library minded citizens gave to the work of the Better Library Movement in West Virginia in promoting legislation favoring library extension was commendable. Failure to achieve the goal set this year acts as a spur to more successful accomplishment next time.

AMERICANS WANT TO READ

For librarians and club leaders presenting a program on library service, we recommend Dorothy F. Hyle's article, "Americans Want to Read." This excellent over-all picture of the public library will furnish good "ammunition" for a talk or give the uninformed reader pertinent information as to the scope of library service.

A copy of this pamphlet may be borrowed from the Library Commission.

EQUAL CHANCE

The popular The Equal Chance: Books Help to Make It has again been made available by A.L.A., in familiar format but with revised statistical data, maps and graphs. It is a timely aid for stimulating interest in libraries both in wartime and in post war planning. To quote:

"The success of our democratic form of government depends on our citizens being intelligent and well informed,--depends, that is, on widespread education. Our public schools provide the basis, but why do we expend effort and money teaching young people to read and investigate, where no facilities

for reading and investigation are available to them afterwards? Wherever it exists, the library carries on and gives permanent value to the work of the schools. Our educational system is incomplete until our libraries reach everyone."

"The equalizing of library opportunity is not bound to happen, but it can be made to happen. Any interested citizen can become a point of leverage for community planning and action through his civic, social, or educational organization, labor or farm group, or state citizens' library committee. Team-work among such groups can build for the library the public support which a complete system of public education must have." - Equal Chance

W.P.A. LIBRARIES TERMINATED

The library program of the Work Projects Administration was officially terminated in counties of the state during February and March.

In most cases, small public libraries organized as projects under the W.P.A. have made provision to continue under local support either from clubs or governing boards.

Ownership of the 6800 books bought by federal funds for use in public library projects has been transferred to the Library Commission. The books will form a part of the Commission's circulating book collection from which loans are available to both individual and group borrowers in the state. The gift is a nice contribution to the work of library extension in West Virginia.

With the discontinuance of the library projects, expressions of appreciation of the work of W.P.A. are heard from towns where the libraries were operated or assisted by W.P.A.

1943 V.B.C.

Miss E. Leonore White, State Director of the Victory Book Campaign, has kindly submitted the following report of the endeavor in West Virginia for lookout readers.

"From the very start the Victory Book Campaign this year has emphasized quality rather than quantity. It is with a great deal of pride in West Virginia's response that I can report that almost every book sent out to the camps looks as though it had just come off the bookseller's shelf.

In the fiction group we have received mysteries, westerns, adventure stories, current war stories, book club offerings, and good modern novels. The non-fiction group includes new books on the war, current events, travel, biography and sociology. Unfortunately, we have only eight technical books so far, a very small showing in this much-needed group. This is understandable because practicing chemists, engineers and other technical workers need these books for their work and can not part with them as readily as with non-essential material.

The plan for a central state sorting and storage room here in Charleston has worked out very well. Books have come to us by railway express, private trucking companies, plumbers' supply trucks, station wagons and mail. Whenever possible, free transportation has been secured. Where this was not possible, all books were sent collect. This has meant a centralization of funds and a simplification of bookkeeping. The establishment of the central store house here had meant that books collected throughout the state could be shipped out as soon as a sufficient number had been collected, thus avoiding the long delays in waiting to receive shipping orders from New York. We have tried to simplify the routine in every way for the local chairmen and I hope that the mechanics of the campaign have been less complex than they were last year.

Our first shipment to the camps goes off this week to the Naval base at Norfolk. This group of books is largely fiction and light non-fiction. All books which are unsuitable for the armed forces will be sent to the State Penitentiary at Moundsville or to the State Hospital at Weston for use by our own State institutions. The few children's books will be sent to child shelters and children's institutions where they are needed.

West Virginia was not given a quota this year. Books are still coming in every day, so that it is impossible to give a final figure now, but I do feel that we shall fall below last year's record in quantity. We are far above it in quality. And that is what the camps have asked for: 'Give a book you wish to keep--and give a book in good condition.' "

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Martha V. Moore has joined the staff of the Library Commission as cataloger. She is a graduate of West Virginia University with a minor in Library Science. Before coming to Morgantown she was librarian of the high school library in Masontown.

WHAT OUR BORROWERS SAY

Use of the Traveling Library loans from the West Virginia Library Commission increases each month. The following excerpts from letters received are typical responses from communities served.

Montgomery - "We are pleased to have our new books and I want to thank you for your nice selection."

Sponcer - "When we heard of the West Virginia Library Commission and its work in the state, we were very much interested, and any help in the form of books that you may send us will be indeed appreciated."

Woir Cove - "We have received the Traveling Library and have been enjoying it very much."

Philippi - "We will be pleased to receive your selection of books and will be glad to pay postage and return or renew them when the time is up. We have many good books in the library but perhaps having the new ones you send coming in all the time will keep more people interested and make it possible for us to raise the money for a full time librarian."

Hilton - "The Woman's Club will be here three afternoons each week and I will be in charge one day each week...I wish we might have a new Traveling Library from the Library Commission."

Keyser - "We are most anxious to have the public pleased with this first lot of books for we are going to do all we can over the next few months to make the library seem indispensable to more people. I am sure your selections will please us."

Kingwood - "May we express our thanks for your interest and cooperation."

St. Marys - "I am returning the fifty juvenile books loaned to our library. Thank you so much for the loan of them. The children have enjoyed them very much and we would like very much to have some more."

Sutton - "I had story hour today, and all of the children left at the end of story hour with one of your new books, very much delighted, as my stock of children's books had been much read."

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The picture on the cover of this issue of the Lookout is from a sketch of the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling.

The Ohio County Public Library of today with over 80,000 books and a circulation of approximately 159,000 books a year is a far cry from the Wheeling Library Association organized May 18, 1859. This Association opened a subscription library on May 15, 1860 with a

collection reported to be 2,500 volumes. The membership fee for subscribers was \$5.00 a year, "payable in advance"! All during the Civil War the library struggled along by reducing the librarian's salary regularly and by closing at night to avoid the expense of gas lights.

In 1882 the Library Association transferred their books and property to the Board of Education under whose trusteeship the library became a public library supported by public funds. An act was passed in the legislature in 1933 establishing the Ohio County Public library with a board of trustees and a budget entirely separate from the Board of Education.

As a county organization the library has grown until it now serves the 73,162 citizens of Wheeling and Ohio County through the Main Library, Warwood Branch, and a Bookmobile which in pre-rationing days traveled over 100 miles a week to outlying districts. These services to the 14,000 registered borrowers are maintained on a budget which for 1942-43 was \$28,000. Miss Eleanor Hamilton, librarian, heads the staff of eleven members.

What might be termed a special feature of the library is the Music Department which was established in 1938. Symphonic and operatic scores, instrumental and vocal selections and books about music and musicians are used by many individuals and organizations, school bands and choral groups. Unlike the other books in the library, the music circulates for a one month period.

In addition to "a good book to read over Sunday", the book collection includes all kinds of informational and recreational reading. During the past two years emphasis has been put on books for defense workers, books for the home front and books behind the news--anything to help "the man behind the man behind the gun".

The file of Wheeling newspapers dating back to

1840 forms the nucleus of a collection of local material which includes fifteen histories of individual counties in West Virginia and many of the important early titles which constitute a background for our state history.

The weekly story hour for children, the book deposits sent to schools throughout the county and bookmobile stops at nineteen schools are all services to juveniles of which the library is proud although they are not unique so far as library work is concerned.

The latest "adventure" was a series of eight radio programs presented in the fall of 1942 by various staff members over station WVVA and called "Know your public library". These programs covered the activities of the Reference, Children's and Music Departments, the Bookmobile, and discussions of books on subjects of current interest, such as "Our Neighbors to the South." On the December 10th broadcast, Mr. Kollam and Miss Johnson were special guests who with Miss Hamilton and Mrs. Cedric Smith of the library board discussed the work of the West Virginia Library Commission.

The Ohio County Public Library is a charter member of the Wheeling Council of Social Agencies and in all ways endeavors to take its rightful place in the life of the community it was created to serve.

REVISED MAILING LIST

To keep an up-to-date mailing list for the Library Lookout and other communications going out to public libraries from this office, we should be pleased to have you send us notice of any change of librarian. Please let us know if the address on the envelope should be corrected in any way. It is our aim to have the Lookout reach the librarian of every public library each quarter. After the librarian has read it we suggest she loan it to the library trustees or sponsoring club chairman.